



# Annual Report 2009-2010



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### **Chairman's Foreword**

It has been an interesting time at the Menter recently due to our lack of Development Officer. Rather we brought both Gwawr and her Business Officers on board in order to set up and implement a variety of structures in their stead. As you can see from this report this has been most successful. By now we have a new part time Development Officer, Sian Edwards, ready and waiting to start.

We have also, in association with Wrexham Council and the Urdd, appointed a new Welsh Youth Officer for the county, Sara Mair, who has been busy preparing and planning different projects.

In addition, Michelle Murphy continues with the Rural Wrexham work and has succeeded in her research and development within the various areas.

With considerable work and excitement we look forward to a new and successful era at the Menter.

Many thanks go to the Management Board for their work and the giving of their time and resources. Also, thank you to all of our partners for their hard work, vision and their support.

**Trefor Jones-Morris**

## **Executive Summary**

Menter Iaith Maelor was founded in 1999 by local volunteers in order to satisfy the desire of local people felt for a community enterprise which would promote the Welsh language in the area in order to ensure that the language reaches its potential.

The Menter has been registered as a Limited Liability Company under warrant since the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2006 and does not work to make a profit. The Menter has an experienced Management Board that is enthusiastic and devoted whose members are selected from a wide variety of business, voluntary, education and public administration sectors.

Anyone agreeing with the aims and objectives of the Menter is welcome to join. Its main job is to develop and expand the use of Welsh in Wrexham's communities. The Welsh Language Board is the Menter's main financier and they have also succeeded in attracting a yearly patronage from Wrexham County Council towards staffing. Further patronage has been secured from the Rural Development Programme that is partly funded by the European Union and the Welsh Assembly Government in preparation for the execution of the Research and Development of the Welsh Language for the period 2008-11.

The Menter is housed in AVOW House – the Wrexham Voluntary Council's building in Wrexham town centre. The work of the Menter is assessed annually by the Language Board using specific targets agreed by the Management Board of Menter Iaith Maelor and the Welsh Language Board. The targets agree with priorities outlined in the Menter's Corporate Plan for the period 2010-13 following consultation with members, co-tenants and partners in the year 2009.

## **Menter Iaith Maelor's Mission Statement**

The Menter's work is to expand, promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in Wrexham.

The Menter will accomplish this by:

- Arranging activities that give the opportunity to all ages to use Welsh socially
- Bring organisations together in order to raise the profile of the Welsh language

- Encourage public bodies and businesses to use Welsh, and to motivate native speakers and learners to use these services
- Operate as an information centre for activities conducted through the medium of Welsh in Wrexham.

This document is a report on the work of the Menter and encompasses the period between April 2009 and March 2010.

The annual report gives an insight into the work done by Menter Iaith for the period of April 2009 to March 2010.

## Chapter 1: Organisations and Partners

The Menter continues to nurture relationships and develop contacts with a number of partners in the public and voluntary sector, in order to secure more services through the medium of Welsh.

The County Forum of the language partners meets on a quarterly basis, with the Menter organising and chairing the meetings. Through effective cooperation the partners have succeeded in sharing good practice and influencing the public and voluntary sectors at a strategic level in order to change existing habits and increase use of the Welsh language. Membership of the Forum has increased in numbers due to a merger with the Flintshire Language Forum, with the following organisations currently being members: - **Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, TWF, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham Borough Council, Menter a Busnes, The Welsh Language Board, The Young Farmers, Merched y Wawr, Popeth Cymraeg, Bangor University, Deeside College, The Welsh for Adults Centre, Cadwyn Clwyd, Estyn Llaw, Parents For Welsh Education, Glyndŵr College and Yale College.**

The Forum secured funding from **The Welsh Language Board** and **Wrexham Borough Council** to employ a **Youth Officer** in conjunction with the **Urdd** and the **County Council**. The officer has responsibility for developing and increasing Welsh language provision to the county's children and young people.

Menter Iaith Maelor received funding of **£49,000** to implement the **Developing the Welsh Language** project throughout the county's rural communities between 2008-2011, which was partially funded by the **European Union and the Welsh Assembly Government**. The funding has enabled the Menter to employ a **Research and Welsh Language Development Officer** who has arranged a series of **events and activities** in order to **raise awareness** of the Welsh language and the rich **heritage** of the county. Another important element of this project was conducting a study of the county's **Language Profile** in

order to identify the **Welsh language services and organisations** operating within the county's rural area.

Following a period of consultation with partners, co-tenants and community representatives, the Menter has adopted the **Corporate Plan and Implementation Program** which notes the Menter's strategic objectives for the **2010 – 13** period.

The Menter acknowledges the importance of community groups who work voluntarily to promote the language and culture of Wrexham, and who have given support to the **Berwyn Festival Committee** during this period.

We have succeeded in developing new **relationships** with a variety of bodies and organizations, for example, **The Family Information Service, the Language and Play Scheme** and **Wrexham Local Voluntary Council**, who intend to increase their use of the **Welsh language**. We will continue to build on this work in the future.

We continue to support local organizations and establishments through referring them to the Welsh Language Board's **Link Line** and their **translation** services.

## Chapter 2: Young Parents

The Menter Iaith will assist in persuading young parents to transfer the Welsh Language to the next generation in order to raise the percentage of families where Welsh is the main language of the home. We will ensure opportunities for young families to use the language in social situations by organising exciting, contemporary events in order to promote the use of the Welsh language in the county.

The Menter organised a **gig** with **Gwibdaith Hen Fran** for families in the **Miner's Institute, Llai**, on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. Language taster sessions for young families were held in sessions with the staff of **Language and Play** throughout the months of February and March 2010.

## Chapter 3: Children

The Menter Iaith is keen to work with education and child care establishments to ensure that Welsh language provision is available for all the children of the county within their local communities. The Menter Iaith will ensure opportunities for them to use the language in informal situations in order to normalise the use of the language socially.

The Menter worked in conjunction with the county's primary schools to develop a series of workshops, for example, poetry workshops with years 3, 4, 5 and 6 in **Ysgol Gynradd Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog** in

May 2009, giving them the opportunity to analyse their **Welsh identity** through the creative process. The children had the opportunity of performing their work during Gŵyl y Berwyn on May 17th 2009.

A number of talk sessions were held with children and young people from years 5, 6, 7 and 8 to raise awareness of the Welsh language within schools and second-language schools, for example, **Ysgol Rhiwabon**. This was in addition to conducting events and **after school clubs**.

The **Rhosllannerchrugog Area Aelwyd** for primary ages 8 -11 was reestablished under the care of the Youth Officer. The **Welsh Language Development Officer and the Youth Officer** arranged a series of drama taster workshops in primary schools in November 2009 to promote Maelor Youth Theatre. The sessions drew 15 new members.

A series of 4 **Santes Dwynwen Craft and Song** workshops were held, with 97 children from the Rural Development Area attending during January 2010. It was a good opportunity to raise children's awareness of Welsh history and folk literature, in addition to allowing them to practise speaking Welsh in informal situations.

## Chapter 4: Language Confidence

One of the Menter Iaith's main objectives is to assist in raising the quantity of Welsh speakers and strengthen the situation of Welsh as a community language.

The Welsh Learners' Eisteddfod was held in February 2009 at the John Ambrose Theatre in Rhuthun, in conjunction with Menter Iaith Maelor, Flint a Dinbych. The Menter will continue to support the Welsh for Adults Centre and the Welsh Education for Adults providers in promoting and marketing the Eisteddfod in 2010, alongside other activities.

The **Research and Development Officer** has continued to support **Learners** in a number of **Speaking Sessions** during the period in **Bellis Garden Centre Cafe** on the first Saturday of the month in **Holt**, and on Tuesday in **The Sun Inn in Rhosllannerchrugog**. Also, Speaking Sessions in **The Royal Oak in Glyn Ceiriog** on the first and third Thursday of each month.

## Chapter 5: Young People

The Menter Iaith has continued to promote the Welsh language amongst young people and is looking to create opportunities for the young people to use their Welsh in social situations.

The Entertainment Committee arranged a Gig with **Bryn Fôn and his band** at **Central Station** in Wrexham, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

An evening of **Poetry and Song** was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Glyn Ceiriog with **Aled Lewis Evans and Robin Bala**. An evening was held at the Sun Inn in Rhosllannerchrugog on November 26<sup>th</sup> with the artist **Meilir**, with over 50 young people attending the event.

The officers will be cooperating with pupils from years 12 and 13 of **Ysgol Morgan Llwyd** to ensure that there are opportunities to complete voluntary service for the Welsh Baccalaureate. In addition the Youth Officer has been cooperating with the Duke of Edinburgh Officer to find opportunities for the children to work through the medium of Welsh.

A **Rock and Radio** workshop in **Ysgol Morgan Llwyd** was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 in conjunction with **C2 and Community Music Wales**. 30 pupils attended the workshops, and a **gig** was organised in the **Tivoli** in Buckley on October 9<sup>th</sup> for pupils years 10 -12 from **High Schools in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham**. A band from Ysgol Morgan Llwyd performed on the evening.

A **roc workshop** with **Gwibdaith Hen Fran** was held in Ysgol Morgan Llwyd and **ID Hooson Primary School** in Rhosllangerchrugog on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 children and young people had the opportunity to participate in the day's workshops.

The Menter cooperated with The Urdd once again to conduct the '**Talent Ffm**' competition for young people in December 2009. A number of youths from Wrexham, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Conwy competed in front of an audience at the **Springfield Hotel in Holywell**.

The following activities were organised for young people: - An Adran **Christmas Party** with a trip to Laser Quest in February. Opportunities were created for young people aged 16+ to assist with the Adran to complete voluntary hours for the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** and the **Welsh Baccalaureate**.

The Youth Officer worked with pupils from Ysgol Morgan Llwyd to establish the school's **Youth Forum**, with the intention of attracting more young people to the forum to ensure a wider participation before the **National Eisteddfod's** visit to the county.

A gig for young people with **Dan Lloyd** was arranged at the **Stiwt Theatre** in October. Despite having a wide age range in the audience, close to 50 young people attended to enjoy the local artist's performance.

The Youth Officer has been supporting Yale College Youth Group with matters concerning the Welsh language.

A drumming workshop was held at **Coedpoeth Youth Club** on 24<sup>th</sup> March with **Andy Hickey**, who spoke about his experiences working bilingually in the music industry. There was also language awareness session with the young people about the **advantages of bilingualism** when making **career choices**.

10 young people from **Aelwyd Morgan Llwyd** had the opportunity to visit **Nantyr Centre** in **Dyffryn Ceiriog** during March 5,6 and 7 2010. Work is also being undertaken to conduct a **Sponsored Walk up Snowdon** in Summer 2010 to raise money for the **Wrexham Eisteddfod 2010 appeal**.

## Chapter 6: Private Sector

The Menter Iaith acknowledges the important role that companies and businesses play in ensuring that the Welsh language infiltrates into everyday life. The Menter Iaith continues to work with the Private Sector Unit of the Welsh Language Board to seek out new opportunities to work with local businesses and companies to persuade them of the benefits of using Welsh

## Chapter 7: Marketing and Publicity

We have been concentrating on developing the Menter's profile during this period to create a **contemporary and attractive image** of Welsh language activities and services available throughout the county. We have developed a relationship with the local media and press to create a positive attitude towards the Welsh Language, this all in conjunction with the County's Language Forum and other partners. Publicity was assured with regular articles appearing in the county papers, The Cymro and the Wrexham Leader, as well as being broadcast on a series of programs on Calon FfM radio station.

## Chapter 8: Management Structures and Staffing

Since April 2009 the Menter has applied a new staffing structure to enable it to complete its short-term and medium-term aims and objectives. A part time **Manager** and **Business Officer** were employed through a service level agreement with Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

A **Youth Officer** was appointed in May 2009 on a three year contract, funded partially by the Welsh Language Board, the Urdd and Wrexham Borough Council. A part-time **Research and Development Officer** was appointed, funded by the Rural Wrexham Development Plan, which is partially funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Union. It is intended to appoint a part-time **Community Development Officer** from April 2010.

Listed below are the **Directors** and **Officers** of Menter Iaith Maelor for the period of the Report:

Directors:-

Chair – Trefor Jones-Morris

Treasurer - David M James

Company's Secretary- Catherine Eleri Lewis

Alun J Emanuel

L Gwenan Emanuel

Ann Ll Hughes

Gareth R Williams

Nerys Jackson

Arfon Jones – left post in May 2009

Bob Jones

John Pritchard – Appointed January 2010

**Staff**

Gwawr Cordiner – Director (part time)

Rhian Davies – Business Officer (part time)

Ellie Pritchard - Business Officer (part time)

Michelle Murphy – Development and Research Officer (part time)

Sara Mair Jones – Youth Officer (full time, on maternity leave as of March 2010)

Nia Meleri - (full time, covering maternity leave as of March 2010)

Siân Edwards – Community Development Officer – appointment March 2010.(part time)

**Chapter 9: Implementation, Monitoring and Reviewing**

It was agreed that we would prioritize some of the activities from the development fields in Menter Iaith Maelor’s Corporate Strategy and 20010-13 Action Plan as our annual targets with the Welsh Language Board. The Corporate Strategy was adopted following consultation with our members, our partners and our supporters in July and August, 2009. A grant of £31,518 was secured for the 2009 -10 financial year following our application to the Welsh Language Board in September 2008. The following **targets** were agreed upon with the Board

**Targets**

<p>Collaborate with the Welsh Language Boards main partners including, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Young Farmers, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Merched y Wawr, Papurau Bro, Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru, Estyn Llaw, Sefydliad Cerddoriaeth Gymreig, Cerdd Cymunedol Cymru and the Duke of Edinburgh Award by sustaining regular meetings, collaborating on projects as needed and continue to Chair the County Language Forum by holding at least 4 meetings a year.</p>
<p>Collaborate with the Welsh Language Board to promote and support projects and campaigns (where relevant) including, Welsh Education Marketing Scheme, Twf, Link Line to Welsh / Home Work Line, Mae Gen ti Ddewis, Cefnogi Arferion Iaith Pobl Ifanc, Iaith Gwaith, Cefnogi'r Gymraeg, Welsh Implementation Schemes and others as needed.</p>
<p>Increase opportunities for families to socialise through the medium of the Welsh Language by collaborating with relevant partners to organise 2 activities aimed specifically at families. Targetting the 8 – 14 age range to increase the opportunities to use the Welsh language by ensuring that there are extracurricular and social opportunities for 70 children in the Rural Development Area.</p> <p>Targetting the 16 – 30 age range to increase the opportunities to use the Welsh language by ensuring that there are extracurricular and social opportunities for 120 young people in the Rural Development Area.</p>
<p>Hold regular talks with the Urdd and County Council to discuss the new work scheme for the new Youth Officer. Ensure that reports are received quarterly on the targets below and on work in general:</p> <p>Working with children and young people at the bridging period (years 6, 7 and 8) to influence and persuade them to use the Welsh language by conducting 6 clubs and activities.</p> <p>Targetting the 14 – 25 age range to increase the opportunities to use the Welsh language by ensuring that there are extracurricular and social opportunities for young people in the county.</p> <p>A study of provision for the 14 – 25 age range in partnership with the Urdd and CFFI to identify new opportunities to develop activities.</p> <p>Conduct 4 activities for the target group 14 – 25</p> <p>Assist youth groups / forums to conduct 3 gigs outside of school hours.</p>
<p>Develop the partnership with the Local Authority by conducting meetings with the Leaders, The Education Portfolio Holder, the Language Officer and the Learning and Achievement Officer.</p>

Draw up a Business Plan and a Strategic Plan on behalf of the Menter for 2010 – 2013.
Develop partnerships within the county.
Conduct a review of policies and procedures of the Menter.
Develop financial systems and look at possible funding sources to develop the Menter further.
Ensure that relevant staff attends appropriate training as organised by the Welsh Language Board.

A grant was secured from **Wrexham County Borough Council** for the **Young People's Officer** until 31 March 2012. In addition, the Menter succeeded in obtaining funding from the **Rural Development Plan** which is partially funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Union for the Developing the Welsh Language Project up until January 2011.

The Director's Board met 4 times between April 2009 and March 2010.

## **Chapter 10: Summary of the Financial Statement**

**On 31 March 2009**

Details provided in the Directors Report and Financial Statements for the period.